

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, 16, and 19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication method that is executed by a transmission unit and a reception unit, comprising:

packetizing sporadically input data to accompany timing information representing ~~their~~ respective input timings of the input data, said timing information being represented by a series of bits, wherein, within a given time interval, a bit value of "1" indicates an input timing for a specific piece of input data;

transmitting packetized input data accompanying the timing information from the transmission unit;

receiving the packetized input data accompanying the timing information by the reception unit; and

outputting the packetized input data as output data at timings based on the timing information from the reception unit, wherein consecutive pieces of said output data are outputted at the same relative timings as the relative input timings of the corresponding input data.

2. (Original) A communication method according to claim 1, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input to the transmission unit in a sporadic manner.

3. (Previously presented) A communication method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission unit transmits the packetized input data accompanying the timing information to the reception unit via a network.

4. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a transmission unit for packetizing sporadically input data to accompany timing information representing ~~their~~ respective input timings of the input data and for transmitting packetized input data accompanying the timing information, said timing information being represented by a series of bits, wherein, within a given time interval, a bit value of "1" indicates an input timing for a specific piece of input data; and

a reception unit for receiving the packetized input data accompanying the timing information from the transmission unit,

wherein said reception unit outputs the packetized input data as output data at timings based on the timing information such that consecutive pieces of said output data are outputted at the same relative timings as the relative input timings of the corresponding input data.

5. (Original) A communication system according to claim 4, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input to the transmission unit in a sporadic manner.

6. (Previously presented) A communication system according to claim 4, wherein the transmission unit transmits the packetized input data accompanying the timing information to the reception unit via a network.

7. (Currently Amended) A transmission unit for use in a communication system performing packet communications, comprising:

an input device for inputting sporadically input data;

a buffer memory for accumulating the sporadically input data, wherein the buffer memory is periodically initialized every prescribed time;

a timing data register for storing timing data representing respective input timings of consecutive pieces of the sporadically input data, said timing data being represented by a series of bits, wherein, within a given time interval, a bit value of "1" indicates an input timing for a specific piece of input data; and

a controller for periodically checking stored content of the timing data register at every prescribed time, wherein the controller performs packetizing of the sporadically input data stored in the buffer memory and the packetized input data accompanying the timing data read from the timing data register are subjected to transmission.

8. (Currently amended) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the prescribed time corresponds to a packet timing that occurs by a prescribed number of shift timings corresponding to said bits of the timing data respectively, ~~so that the input timings are represented by the bits of the timing data.~~

9. (Previously presented) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the timing data register is a shift register for storing the timing data having a prescribed number of bits at every prescribed time corresponding to a packet timing.

10. (Original) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input in a sporadic manner.

11. (Original) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the packetized input data accompanying the timing data are subjected to transmission via a network.

12. (Currently Amended) A reception unit for use in a communication system performing packet communications, comprising:

a receiver for receiving packetized input data corresponding to sporadically input data from a transmission unit together with timing data representing ~~their~~ respective input timings of the input data, said timing data being represented by a series of bits, wherein, within a given time interval, a bit value of "1" indicates an input timing for a specific piece of input data;

a buffer memory for accumulating the packetized input data received by the receiver;

a timing data register for storing the timing data received by the receiver; and

a controller for outputting, as output data, the packetized input data read from the buffer memory at timings based on the timing data such that consecutive pieces of said output data are outputted at the same relative timings as the relative input timings of the corresponding input data.

13. (Previously presented) The reception unit according to claim 12, wherein the timing data register is a shift register for storing the timing data having a prescribed number of bits at every prescribed time corresponding to a packet timing.

14. (Original) The reception unit according to claim 12, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input to the transmission unit in a sporadic manner.

15. (Original) The reception unit according to claim 12, wherein the receiver receives from the transmission unit the packetized input data accompanying the timing data via a network.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a communication program which when executed causes a computer to perform a transmission method for use in a communication system performing packet communications, said method comprising:

inputting sporadically input data;

accumulating the sporadically input data in a buffer memory that is periodically initialized every prescribed time;

storing timing data representing respective input timings of consecutive pieces of the sporadically input data by a timing data register, said timing data being represented by a series of bits, wherein, within a given time interval, a bit value of "1" indicates an input timing for a specific piece of input data;

periodically checking stored content of the timing data register at every prescribed time;

packetizing [[of]] the sporadically input data stored in the buffer memory; and

transmitting the packetized input data accompanying the timing data read from the timing data register.

17. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input in a sporadic manner.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the packetized input data accompanying the timing data are subjected to transmission via a network.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a communication program which when executed causes a computer to perform a reception method for use in a communication system performing packet communications, said method comprising:

receiving packetized input data corresponding to sporadically input data from a transmission unit together with timing data representing ~~their~~ respective input timings of the

input data, said timing data being represented by a series of bits, wherein, within a given time interval, a bit value of "1" indicates an input timing for a specific piece of input data;

accumulating the received packetized input data by a buffer memory;

storing the received timing data in a timing data register; and

outputting, as output data, the packetized input data read from the buffer memory at timings based on the timing data such that consecutive pieces of said output data are outputted at the same relative timings as the relative input timings of the corresponding input data.

20. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input in a sporadic manner.

21. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the packetized input data accompanying the timing data are received via a network.